

THE WINDOW

First Presbyterian Church

Hendersonville, TN

October 2026



Dear Friends,

During a summer Sunday school class, we discussed Ephesians 1:15-23. This is Paul's prayer for the church. He asks God to give them wisdom and discerning hearts, a sense of God's rich calling on their lives, and the knowledge of the power God gives them. The class focused on verse 19-20. He prays the church will understand the power of God working in them. God used the same power to raise Jesus from the dead and seat him in heaven with all authority. It seems Paul uses every word possible to describe God's power working in our lives. What would happen if we understood "the exceeding greatness of God's power that is in working in us according to his mighty power." This is resurrection power.

I asked the class to write these verses in their own words.

- God has given us the same power he used to raise Christ from the dead. He has equipped us with what we need to uplift others and strengthen the church.
- There's human power and there's God's power. Those who are in Christ have God's incomparable power. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is in all believers.
- God's power is even greater than I can imagine: the power to raise Christ from the dead not only for today but in all days and forever to uplift others and serve Him.
- God has power to do what ever He wants, in whatever way He wants to do it not only in the past but now and in the future. That power is what we as Christians must accept – not necessarily understand – and that is the power of faith in what God does.
- God's power is greater than anything. He showed this by elevating Christ to His side and giving Him dominion overall. That same power resides in believers by virtue of the Holy Spirit that lives within us and intercedes for us.
- I pray God will reveal to you His dynamite power energizing you daily, bringing life out of death.

Can you imagine living life with the understanding that God has equipped you with the same power He used on that first Easter morning? Jesus' body was beaten, hung on a cross till he died, and then put his body in a tomb. For three days there was silence. Jesus' followers were devastated, not knowing what to do or what was next. All their hopes and expectations ended with the sound of nails in a cross. No hope is left. Until God spoke. God's power brought new life to Jesus' dead body. The impossible is possible.

The impossible is possible in your life too. Resurrection power is moving through your spiritual veins and inspiring your daily decisions!

When I was in youth group many years ago, one of my favorite songs was "Every Morning is Easter Morning." *Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on! Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone... I am one of the Easter people, my new life has begun!*

May we live each day remembering God energizes us with resurrection power.

Love and Prayers,

Michael

New Vision Statement

First Presbyterian Church is a family of all generations, joining our voices in worship and extending our tables in mission — growing together in the ever-expanding Kingdom of God, where every neighbor is welcomed and known by name.

October Mission of the Month

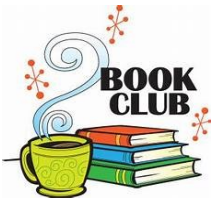


During October, we will collect food for our friends at the Hendersonville Samaritan Food Distribution Center. The Center provides essential food boxes and staples to households experiencing food insecurity, prepares and delivers weekend food packages for hungry children, and offers aid for qualifying residents dealing with utility bills, rent, housing payment, and prescription costs. Your donations help them continue this vital work in our community.

We will begin collecting food items on Sunday, September 27 and deliver all donations the week of October 25th. Below are the items needed for this Food Drive:

- Canned Great Northern Beans
- Blackeyed Peas
- Campbell's Chunky Soups
- Canned Peas
- Pinto Beans
- Kidney Beans
- Lima Beans
- Refried Beans
- Packets of Gravy Mix
- Chef Boyardee Ravioli
- Canned Carrots
- Chili

We are blessed to be a blessing! Please contact Deb Renton with any questions you may have.



The FPC Evening Book Club is currently reading *Separation of Church and Hate*, written by John Fugelsang. For more than two centuries, the United States Constitution has given us the right to a society where church and state exist independently. In today's politically divided country, does the Constitution still protect that right?

Join us for our discussion on **Monday evening, October 12, at 6:30 p.m.**

Read along and meet with us for discussion from the comfort of your own home as we meet by Zoom. Just send an email to our "Zoom Master" Charles Lott so he can send you a link. (crlott@bellsouth.net) For any further questions, contact Jackie Decker (thepauldeckers@comcast.net). Looking ahead: *Paper Girl*, written by Beth Macy.

Update on the New Pavilion

The pavilion is almost completed. If everything works according to plan, we will worship and dedicate the pavilion on Sunday, October 25th. Since this is Reformation Sunday, we will have bagpipes playing along with our music.

Some of you have asked about grills and tables and chairs. This project was only building the pavilion. This includes electricity, lights, and fans. We will use our tables and chairs from inside. Landscaping and grilling equipment will be discussed later.



DAILY BIBLE READING

This year we will read through the New Testament. There will be one chapter for each weekday and no reading assignments on weekends. This time can be used to reflect on the weekly readings. Here are some reflective questions after you read the chapter through twice. Is there a word or phrase that gets my attention? How does this touch my life? Is there an invitation for me? How will this impact my life today?

October 1	Philemon
October 2	Hebrews 1
October 3	Reflection
October 4	Reflection
October 5	Hebrews 2
October 6	Hebrews 3
October 7	Hebrews 4
October 8	Hebrews 5
October 9	Hebrews 6
October 10	Reflection
October 11	Reflection
October 12	Hebrews 7
October 13	Hebrews 8
October 14	Hebrews 9
October 15	Hebrews 10
October 16	Hebrews 11
October 17	Reflection
October 18	Reflection
October 19	Hebrews 12
October 20	Hebrews 13
October 21	James 1
October 22	James 2
October 23	James 3
October 24	Reflection
October 25	Reflection
October 26	James 4
October 27	James 5
October 28	1 Peter 1
October 29	1 Peter 2
October 30	1 Peter 3
October 31	Reflection



Let's just drink coffee
and talk about
happy things.



First Wednesday Coffee Talk will meet on October 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. We are a group of ladies who enjoy fellowship. We want to get to know you, too. We have coffee, share a lot of laughter, care and support each other in true friendship. If we had a motto it would be: We have cookies. Everyone is welcome.

Beginning on October 1, **These Days Daily Devotions** Bible Study will start our 4th quarter series. We are a group of women who come together each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the Session room to study Scripture and find relevance in the devotion for the day. We have found it to be an adventurous study. You may start now or wait until October 1. For information call Freda Blackwell at 616-390-5788.

Save the Date: Fall Adult Fellowship & Bonfire!



Mark your calendars for a wonderful evening of food, fun and fellowship! On **Saturday, October 17th** all adult members and friends of the church are invited to gather at the home of Janet and Drew Covington (128 Lake Valley Rd. Hendersonville) at 6:00 p.m. for an outdoor picnic and bonfire. Please bring a picnic style side dish and/or a dessert to share with the group. We would appreciate an RSVP to either Janet Covington or Marikay Burke so that we can plan accordingly.

Whether you've been a long-time member or are looking to connect with new friends, all adult church members and guests are warmly invited to join us as we gather around the fire and enjoy a lovely autumn evening together!!



Sunshine Fellowship: Over 40 Sunshine members and friends gathered for a potluck salad lunch that featured our own Tom Williams, who spoke about the history of and on the new preservation project of the Bradford-Berry House here in Hendersonville.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

2026 Membership Committee Co-Moderators: Brian Burke and Casey Thompson

Current Members: Al Ballenger, John Allen, Janna Willis, Brian Burke and Casey Thompson.



A Big THANK YOU to Freda Blackwell and June Still who recently stepped off serving on the Membership Committee for many years. Your contributions have been invaluable.

Thank you to Elizabeth Ipox who was a wonderful contributor to our committee and designed our new website and helped facilitate our new online directory - Instant Church Directory!

Purpose: The Membership Committee is responsible for all things Membership and beyond. First and foremost the Membership Committee oversees the needs of our church and their members. We identify needs for our congregation and consult with our members to learn and take action to do what is best for our church to evolve.

We focus on and oversee the following: New Members and Visitors, Shepherds, Budget Committee, Elder Nominating Committee, First Wednesday Coffee Talk, Safety of our Church, Church Directory and Social Media.

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." - Romans 15:7

The Membership Committee has had the opportunity to lead with change over the last few years. One thing specifically is our directory going online. Never fear, you can still get printed copies too!

Want to be more involved in Membership?

There are so many ways for you to be more involved, and we would love to have you. Please contact Brian or Casey.

PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL

About our school growth:

We are so excited to share that every classroom at PDS is currently full! Even more exciting, we have welcomed approximately 20 new families into our school community this year. It is such a privilege to have the opportunity to serve more children and families throughout Hendersonville and the surrounding community.

Over the past year, we have been very intentional about strengthening our program, supporting our teachers, and creating an environment where families are confident and excited to send their children. Seeing that work reflected in our enrollment and hearing our school spoken about so positively throughout the community has been incredibly rewarding.

I am immensely proud of the reputation PDS continues to build. Our growth is a reflection of the wonderful teachers who pour into these children each day, the families who trust us with them, and a church that continues to support and invest in this ministry. We have been blessed with such an amazing staff. This year, we have four returning teachers: Ms. Jasmine (Toddlers), Ms. Rosi (Threes), Mrs. Becky (Pre Kindergarten) and Mrs. Ashley (Jr Kindergarten).

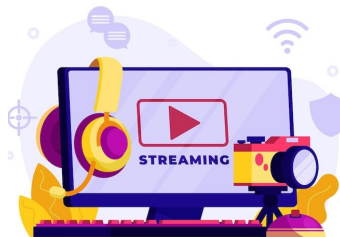


We have welcomed a new teacher this year in our Twos class, Mrs. Mandy! Please pray for all of our staff during this school year as they help shape the young minds and hearts at our school!

Upgrades to Sound and Streaming



A great worship experience is something we often don't notice—until the microphone cuts out, feedback rings through the room, or the instruments overpower the vocals. As our church family continues to grow, our technical infrastructure must grow with it. Many of you have noticed these issues with our sound and streaming. We will be moving forward with several upgrades to ensure every word spoken and note played and sung is heard clearly.



Our leadership teams have spent the last months talking with professionals and evaluating our sanctuary's specific needs. Here are some of the key areas that these upgrades will focus on:

Vocal Clarity & Balance: We are updating our microphones and mixing consoles. This ensures sermons, scripture readings, and prayers are easily understood, as well as balancing instruments and vocals during worship.

Full Sanctuary Sound Coverage: We are adding stage monitors as well as new speakers to deliver sound throughout the entire sanctuary, not just up to the middle pews. Everyone will experience the same clear audio quality, no matter where they sit. We will also have a new portable speaker to use for events in Martin Hall.

Stage Aesthetics: We will be moving the current rack gear under the front wall to free up space on the stage, creating a cleaner, more focused environment for worship.

An Enhanced Livestream Experience: The audio upgrades will produce significant improvements in the live stream. We will move the camera to the center and refine the settings and mix on the streaming programs to enhance online listening.

We expect the installation process to begin the second week of November just in time for holiday services. Thank you for your continued patience, prayers, and support as we invest in the future of our worship space.

Welcoming Our New Technical Support Specialists!

We are excited to introduce our new Technical Support Specialists, Andrew Wolff and Tyler Cusson! They will help oversee our audio and visual systems during services to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Meet Andrew Wolff: Andrew has a heart for helping others and a deep love for music. When he isn't busy keeping our tech running smoothly or hanging out with friends, you can likely find him working on his unique main hobby: forging, grinding, and shaping knives.

Meet Tyler Cusson: Tyler is currently a freshman at Beech High School, where he stays highly involved as a member of both the Beta Club and DECA, among other school activities. Outside of his studies, Tyler loves listening to music and hanging out with his friends.

Please take a moment to say hello and give a warm welcome to both Andrew and Tyler the next time you see them in the back, or working on the microphones!



Wonderful news! The Session approved expanding Sheri Brazelton's job description. She will now be working 25 hours a week (she averaged 13). Along with her existing responsibilities, she will provide leadership to all the music groups, oversee sound/streaming equipment and Support Specialists, oversee the website and social media, be a music resource for the day school, and lead the church in creative ways to reach out to the community.

Presbyterian Elder



Presbyterian elders are elected by the congregation. Our church has twelve elders, each serving three-year terms. Each year four rotate off and four new elders are elected to serve with the remaining eight elders. The Elder Nominating Committee is trained by the pastor and discuss the importance of a person's sense of call. They discuss Bible verses and Book of Order (Presbyterian constitution) guidelines, pray, and discuss the leadership needed for our church.

Members who take part in the life and worship of the church, study scripture, and support the ministry through giving money, time, and talents are potential leaders. At their first meeting the Nominating Committee highlighted the following characteristics for elder leadership: humble, servant heart, kind, well thought of, able to discern gifts, takes risks, listener, willing to compromise, maturity of faith, equips people for ministry, compassionate, visionary, hospitable to members and visitors, and helps assimilate new members.

Elders lead the church along with the pastor. They model commitment, mission, and loving care for the membership. The elders build relationships of trust on the session to lead the congregation in servant-leadership. They respect each other and understand the importance of listening and accepting diversity within unity. They lead the congregation to new and exciting places of ministry. They learn what it means when God does not call the qualified; God qualifies the called.

Ruling Elders (title given in Presbyterian Church) are called to strengthen and nurture people's faith and lives. They form the session that meets monthly. Each elder will moderate one of the committees of the church (usually two for each committee); offer a devotion at session; lock up the church building on Sundays; and serve communion.

Accepting a call to serve the church as an elder is a fun, exciting, and challenging opportunity to grow in your faith and life. This year the Elder Nominating Committee will present four elders for the Congregation's approval. If you have any recommendations, please contact one of the committee members: Casey Thompson, Brian Burke (elders on session and chairs), Freda Blackwell, Brenda Hubbell, Janna Willis, Carl Scott, Jerry Klym, or Linda at the office.

There is something incredibly special about getting to spend my days watching children become more of who God has created them to be! At Presbyterian Day School, we get a front-row seat to so many of those little moments. The first time a child confidently walks into their classroom, the friendships that are being made over blocks and crayons, the questions that turn into discoveries, and the pride in their faces when they realize, "I can do this!"



I feel genuinely blessed to lead a school where childhood is valued for exactly what it is. Our classrooms are places where children can learn, play, wonder, make mistakes, grow, and be deeply known and loved along the way. We recognize that every child who walks through our doors is wonderfully unique, and it is such a privilege to meet them where they are and help nurture them academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

One of my favorite parts of this work is knowing that what happens here reaches far beyond learning letters and numbers. We are helping build confidence, kindness, independence, curiosity and a foundation of faith during some of the most formative years of a child's life.

I am continually grateful to Hendersonville First Presbyterian Church for making this ministry possible and for believing in the importance of investing in young children and their families. I truly love what I get to do every day, and I could not be more excited about the growth happening within our little school and all that is still ahead for Presbyterian Day School!

With a grateful heart,

Lauren Finn

SERMONS

October 4 (Communion) – Philippians 3:4b-14,
My accomplishments can interrupt my relationship with God.

October 11 – Guest Preacher - Tom Tyndall

October 18 – Philippians 4:1-9, Who is guarding your heart?

October 25 (Reformation Day), Dedication of the pavilion with worship and bagpipes.



Thru August 2026	
Revenue	\$ 187,528.05
Expenses	\$ 265,237.02
Shortfall	\$ - 77,708.97

SESSION ACTIONS

- Prayed for congregation
- Read the session statement of faith
- Removed the Ipox's, Niven's, and Terry Wright from the roll
- Discussed a member's letter requesting the session to write a letter to the presbytery in reference to a General Assembly decision
 - Voted unanimously not to write a letter
- Approved minutes from Stated Meeting on August 17, Congregational Meeting on August 23, and Called Meeting on September 13.
- Discussed concerns of members
- Discussed *Proclaiming the Great Ends of the Church*, The Promotion of Social Righteousness
- Approved Ministry Unit reports
- Received pastor's report
- Discussed next steps with implementing the vision statement
- Received a pavilion update
- Approved spending \$20,000 out of the Memorial Fund to upgrade the sound and streaming systems
- Approved expanding Sheri's job and pay (details included in this newsletter)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for celebrating my 100th birthday with me at the church and for the lovely cards and gifts. My heart is full of joy after sharing my special day with all of you. I deeply appreciate your thoughtful birthday wishes, and I consider your love and friendship as one of the greatest blessings of my long life. Having my church family beside me made this milestone truly unforgettable.

With all my love and gratitude, Ruth Woodworth



Ministry Around the Church

Several months ago, David and his family visited our worship service. David is the pastor of the Sudanese Nuer Presbyterian Church in Gallatin. He has been a friend in ministry for many years, even before I started as your pastor in 2012. David travels to Sudan every summer to minister to the Sudanese people who have been displaced by war and violence. An important part of our mission giving is \$2,000 to support the Sudanese Church in Gallatin and their ministry across the world.



CHURCH STAFF

Michael Davis, *Pastor*

michael@fpchendersonville.org

Linda Agee, *Church Administrator*

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Sheri Brazelton, *Music Director*

sheri@fpchendersonville.org

Tina Yar, *Nursery Attendant*

Tina.ostovar@gmail.com

Lauren Finn, *P.D.S. Director*

PDSDirector123@gmail.com



First Presbyterian Church

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Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.



- 2 - Andrew Haag
- 3 - Glenda Greek
- 5 - Lynda Applewhite
- 6 - Molly Reno
- 8 - Rick Bass
- 9 - Jean Getter
- 10 - Julie Riggs
- 13 - Patricia Scott
Bob Scott
- 16 - Connie Booze
- 17 - Mason Thompson
- 19 - Nancy Davis
Judy Hodges
- 21 - Pat Smith
- 22 - Wendy Wells
Glenda Watson
Brian Burke
- 23 - Mary Ruffin
- 24 - Bud Anderson
Debby Reno
- 28 - Ally Estepp